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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
20 June 1962

OCI No. 1277/62

Copy No.

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Motives in Chinese Communist Military Build-up

1. We think it very ^{deliberately} unlikely that the Soviets and the Chinese Communists have planned a coordinated action--or even coordinated pressures--on Berlin and on Quemoy. The relations between the two countries are not, in our opinion, close enough at present to make this at all probable. Neither do we think that the Soviets wish at this time to run the risks involved in such an operation; indeed we believe that they would be opposed to the Chinese independently undertaking an attack on Quemoy. If the Chinese Communists launched such an attack or created a situation of sharp crisis in the area, we believe the Soviets would consider that any drastic increase of pressures in Berlin would involve an undesirable heightening of risks.

2. If the Chinese Communists attack Quemoy, or openly threaten to attack it, and conduct an appropriate propaganda campaign at home and abroad, we believe that one of their motives would be to divert their people and to secure a measure of patriotic support for the government. Such a diversion would be unprofitable, however, unless the enterprise were successful, and (because of Chinese Communist economic weaknesses) successful fairly quickly. We do not believe that the Chinese can be confident of such a quick success. Accordingly, we believe that some other motivation is more likely to be primary, [perhaps a desire to pre-empt an anticipated Chinese Nationalist attack by means of a spoiling operation against the offshore islands.]

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